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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/702,374	10/30/2000	Kent D. Chapman	4380.000400	2238
25555	7590	02/09/2006	EXAMINER	
JACKSON WALKER LLP 2435 NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESSWAY SUITE 600 RICHARDSON, TX 75080			CLARDY, S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1617	

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 1617

Claims 1-17, 20-43, 46-50, and 59-89 are pending in this application which claims benefit of US Provisional Application 60/162,178, filed October 28, 1999.

Applicants' claims are drawn to compositions (claims 1-17, 20-25, 59-61, 64-72, and 83-89), a kit (claim 26), and methods of delaying plant senescence (claims 27-43, 46-50, 62, 63, 73-82). The compositions comprise:

- A) N-acylethanolamine (NAE)): [C₈₋₂₀ alkyl] -CO-NH-EtOH
- B) a plant hormone: auxin (AUX), gibberellin (GB), or cytokinin (CK)
- C) a horticulturally acceptable carrier.

The N-acylethanolamines have been designated throughout the specification using an "NAEx:y" notation which is explained on page 10 of the specification. Most composition claims have been amended to limit the NAE concentration to between 0.1 to 1000 μ M.

Other composition components include:

nutrient materials	(claims 10-11: lipid, carbohydrate ¹ , or amino acid)
surfactant ²	
buffer	(see list in claim 15)
osmoregulants ³	
biocidal agents	(claim 20: antifungal, bacteriostatic, bactericidal ⁴ agents)
(soy) lecithin	(claims 23, 61)
alcohol	(claims 68-69; e.g., isopropanol)

Preferred NAEs appear to be N-lauroylethanolamine and N-myrisoylethanolamine (claim 23). The methods of delaying senescence make use of either the compositions as outlined above, or the NAE component alone (see for example claim 27).

¹ Claim 11: lactose, dextrose, fructose, sucrose, glucose, sorbitol, mannitol, inositol

² Claim 12: polyEO sorbitan monolaurate, monopalmitate monostearate, EO alkyl phenols, hydrogenated oil

³ Claim 17: a salt, carbohydrate, polyol, polyEO glycol

⁴ Claim 21: 8-hydroxyquinoline, dichloroisocyanurate, 1,3-dichloro5,5-dimethylhydantoin

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Claims 46 and 47 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 46 is dependent on canceled claim 44 (and claim 47 on claim 46). Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 72, 83 and 84 remain rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lambie et al (US 6,200,586), for reasons of record. These claims appear to have been inadvertently omitted when amending the claims to limit the composition concentration range to between 0.1 to 1000 μ M. Without such a limitation, they still read on the surfactant concentrations of the prior art. See the previous office action.

This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

Claim 46 (and 47) are dependent on a canceled claim; claims 72, 83, and 84, still contain subject matter (high NAE concentration) which appears to have been inadvertently overlooked in the last amendment.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

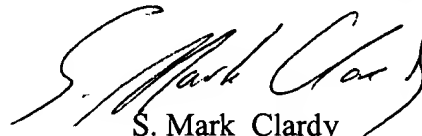
This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to S. Mark Clardy whose telephone number is 571-272-0611. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreenivasan Padmanabhan can be reached on 571-272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



S. Mark Clardy
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1617

February 6, 2006